Ideology and the State
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Background & Brief History

-Born 1918
-Admitted to study at Ecole Normale Superieure in 1939
-Joined Communist Party in 1948
-Murdered wife in 1980; Confined till his death in 1990

Some of Althusser’s Works
-Lenin Philosophy and Other Essays
-Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses.
-Reading
-On the Young Marx
-Marxism and Humanism
-Contradiction & Overdetermination
-The Future Lasts Forever

What is Ideology and the State?

-- “Ideology is a Representation of the Imaginary Relationship of Individuals to their Real Conditions of Existence.”

-- “Ideology has a material existence.”

Two Theses: object vs. materiality

-Mechanistic Type; Hermeneutic interpretation.
-Why do men need imaginary position of real conditions to represent themselves and their real conditions of existence?
- “An ideology always exists in an apparatus, and its practice, or practices. This existence is material”(166).

M--Ideology talks of actions inserted into practices. Example: Kneeling in Prayer.
--Ideology Interpellates Individuals as Subjects.
--subject in relation to unborn baby.
--Subject vs. subject
--Ideologies not born in the ISAs but from the social classes of class struggles and their conditions in their practices, existence, etc.
Conclusion

Basically the “real world” becomes, not something that is objectively out there, but something that is the product of our relations to it, and of the ideological representations we make of it—the stories we tell ourselves about what is real becomes what is real.

Any Questions? None, okay thanks.

THE END